

SO THIS IS HOW GREAT EMPIRES FAIL THEN FALL.

Like the Dollar, the demise of US imperialism has been raised many times before. This time it may be different. Never before, at least not since WW2, and certainly not since the end of the cold war, has the US met a challenge with the stature of a rising China. The Pentagon leak and the renewed call by Macron for 'European Autonomy' are recent indicators that the tide may be beginning to turn against the US.

To protect its hegemony the US went on the offensive against China in 2018. Phase 1 has been the economic blockade imposed against China's high-tech industries which goes beyond the sphere of microelectronics. Phase 2 was provoking the war in the Ukraine with the objective of regime change in Russia which would have opened up the northern flank around China. Phase 3, will be attacking China directly.

Phase 1, an act of war in so far as it is intended to do economic harm to the Chinese economy, has been relatively successful but costly to the USA and the rest of the world. To take out China, the US has not hesitated to damage the global economy. There has been collateral damage to markets and trade everywhere. It has damaged the prospects of its own capitalist producers and that of the producers in Europe, Japan, Taiwan and South Korea. The uprooting of supply chains will raise cost prices at a time of falling selling prices. At first the EU, Japan and South Korea joined with the USA embargoing tech transfers to China. Clearly they were driven by the vista of a China remolding the future landscape of the world economy in its own image which would potentially harm their profit prospects.

Now however they are being forced to consider the collateral damage the economic onslaught by the USA is causing. They are clearly caught in a dilemma; future potential losses versus actual current losses, losses which go beyond their initial expectations, losses compounded and made unaffordable by a weakening global economy. We only have to look at the fortunes of Samsung, really the world's biggest electronic producer, which have dramatically collapsed. The fact is, that with the world economy heading for a slump, the last thing it needs is an economic war which could turn the world economy into the equivalent of Afghanistan. This is exactly what the US is causing and countries previously aligned to it now have to consider whether the US is an ally or a liability.

Furthermore, the war in the Ukraine has backfired spectacularly back onto the USA. As I write, what is left of the Ukrainian army in Bakhmut is cooped up and being pounded in the remaining 10% of the town. The Zelensky regime has staked its future on holding the town which is why it callously prevented a withdrawal of its troops when that was possible. With each passing day the Ukrainian army, despite landing a few blows on the Russian army, is being torn and burnt apart. The much heralded [Ukrainian 'make or break' spring offensive](#) has now been delayed till summer.

The reasons given for the delay like the offensive itself are fictitious. Nor does it have anything to do with the leak of the Pentagon papers. The significance of this leak from within the Pentagon itself lies not in what has been leaked but the leak itself. It shows the discord within the ranks of the US military. If the 21 year old leaker is the real source and not some patsy, his motivation is likely to have been the differing reality between what is actually going on in the Ukraine and what was being told to the US public. It is said that the first casualty of war is the truth. This is exemplified by the war in the Ukraine which has been buried under media lies all the way back to 2014. It has been recognised by numerous figures reporting

on the war that in no other war has there ever been such a suffocating carpet of lies, as is now woven by the raptage from Ukraine. The North American and European media, from the owners down to the editors down to the reporters are criminally liable for misreporting the war thereby preventing it from being resolved through political means.

Obviously the western media will ask what motivated Jack Teixeira to open the tap on such a big leak. And no doubt they will keep turning his motivation over and over so as to never get to the truth. But the truth is that when things are going badly for your side and you do not own up, sooner or later the beans will be spilt. And it is likely that Jack Teixeira felt justified leaking this information because of the dissent within the Pentagon itself.

Not all the senior staff in the US military are demented, rabid and opportunistic neo-cons as found in and around the Whitehouse and Congress. Not all of them are intoxicated by the might of the USA, who in a Churchillian manner have totally underestimated the capacity of the Russian war machine while failing to comprehend the nature of the Ukrainian war. NATO may have helped the Ukrainians dig tens of thousands of miles of trenches together with innumerable bunkers since 2014 in order to bog down the Russian army and bleed it, but Russia did not sit idly by. Russia built new armament factories, while expanding and modernizing the huge legacy left behind by the Soviet Union.

When the initial Russian feints failed to successfully drag Zelensky to the negotiating table at the onset of the war, Russia set about grinding down the Ukrainian army by force of arms. And it did so primarily to spare the lives of its own soldiers. Taking this into account, progress was always going to be slow. Estimates vary, but Russia is firing at least 40,000 shells per day at the Ukrainians whose return fire is less than 8,000 shells. This translates into roughly 100 shells per daily Ukrainian fatality. This ratio expresses the caution being exercised by Russian generals as well as testimony to how sturdy the trenches and emplacements on the other side are.

Of course the Western media have misinterpreted this method of war as one of incompetence on the part of the Russians, even cowardice. This is not the case. Normally any attacking army suffers much higher casualties than the defenders because the attackers have to cross open ground to attack fortified positions. This is not the case in the Ukraine. It is likely that Ukraine casualties outnumber Russian ones by a factor of 6 to 1 because the Russians prepare the battleground methodically with an overwhelming superiority of arms which are also better coordinated.

It is in this context that the Pentagon Leaks must be seen. Leaks are more typical when plans go wrong than when they go right. Clearly there are elements in the Pentagon who know the Ukrainians have lost and that there is nothing to gain from pursuing this war except the deaths of ever more Ukrainians. There could also be concerns that any escalation could result in a European wide conflict with unexpected and unanticipated consequences. For example on Thursday Russian intelligence revealed their own assessment of Zelensky's trip to Poland. They concluded that in the event of a severe defeat of the Ukrainian army Western Ukraine would effectively be folded into a Polish-Ukrainian Confederation (The Warsaw Union). Were this to happen then that part of Ukraine would become part of NATO and the EU. Any subsequent attack on Ukraine would represent an attack on NATO dragging in Europe and escalating the conflict into a true European war.

There is also be concern within the US military that the Ukrainian conflict is bleeding the US military's capacity to engage China. That the Ukraine is an unnecessary diversion driven by greed, namely the desire

to lay hands on Russia's rich resources, rather than by purely military objectives. It is not only the Ukraine who is running out of ammunition and cannon, it is western armories as well. The previous wars fought by the West post-Vietnam did not require the expenditure of ammunition on the scale needed to subdue a well-armed adversary. Ukraine has therefore been a wakeup call and NATO countries are now scrambling to beef up their industrial capacity to produce lower tech arms.

It is also in this context that [Macron's announcements](#) should be viewed. It was not only what he said, but where he said and when. It was said when returning from a visit to China and at a time when the Chinese navy was about to engage in exercises around Taiwan in retaliation for the Taiwanese's president visiting California and meeting with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Macron also used the interview to repeat his previous calls for Europe to exercise 'strategic autonomy'. And Macron did not mince his words. He was most undiplomatic. He called for Europe not to follow the agenda set by the United States and for Europe to set its own policy on Taiwan.

In fact Macron was stating the obvious. The interests of European imperialism is best served by plotting a meandering course between the USA and China in any conflict driven by the USA. By tailing the USA, war has already come to Europe damaging the EU while benefitting the USA. Should the EU exercise 'strategic autonomy' the next world war will not be centered on Europe as the first two wars were, wars which allowed the US to achieve its hegemony.

Once again the setbacks suffered by NATO's proxy war (turning it into the North American Troubled Association) has forced a reassessment. It is creating tensions across the Atlantic, a falling out between warring parties as things go wrong. It is likely that the EU was initially seduced into supporting the war in the Ukraine by the imminent prospect of getting its snout into the *Russian Trough* alongside the US pig, through toppling Putin and installing a pro-western regime. (The test for prospective regime change is always met by the personalized vilification of the leaders of the government intended to be overthrown. Sadly most of the leaders of the peace movements fall for this demonization as well.) As toppling Putin is no longer on the cards there is nothing positive for the Europeans in pursuing this war, only economic costs. Further, it is leading to increased tensions within the EU particularly by gun-ho East European countries notably [Poland](#) as mentioned above who would not hesitate to deepen the war .

Of course France is not the mover and shaker in the EU, Germany is. The response to Macron's remarks by most German politicians was mostly hostile with the exception of the parliamentary 'left' in Berlin as well as the German Chancellor who has previously expressed the desire to maintain economic ties with China due to its importance as a market for German goods. [Politico](#), the news outlet which first broadcast Macron's comments on the flight back to Europe from China stated that the criticism of Macron's position was universally negative. *"It should be emphasized that the president's words are severely out of step with the feeling across Europe's legislatures and beyond," read the statement, which was signed by lawmakers including 15 MPs from national legislatures in the EU — including one from Macron's own party in France, as well as three MEPs."*

Macron may have backtracked and he may be isolated today but the tide is turning in his favour. It will be Europe not the USA who will have to deal with a defeated Ukraine turned into a failed state littered with unexploded ordnance. And even before that occurs war weariness is already growing in Europe itself as more and more workers come to understand the nature of this war and how much it is costing ordinary Europeans. In time heads will not only roll in Kyiv, they will roll in Brussels as well, especially well-manicured ones.

Of course the final insult caused by the leaks comes from Kyiv itself. Can you imagine, they are demanding monetary compensation for the damage these leaks has caused to the Ukraine. Talk about beggars masquerading as clowns. Which brings me to [Seymour Hersh's revelations](#) that the Zelensky regime has skimmed at least \$400 million in aid destined for the war effort based on leaked CIA information. Here are some of the juicer reveals in the article. The issue of corruption in Ukraine was reportedly raised by CIA Director William Burns to Zelenskyy at a meeting last January." *Hersh was told that the meeting "was out of a 1950s mob movie." "The senior generals and government officials in Kiev were angry at what they saw as Zelenskyy's greed, so Burns told the Ukrainian president, because 'he was taking a larger share of the skim money than was going to the generals,'" . "However, Zelensky reportedly responded to the CIA director with a shrug." "They have no experience, judgment, and moral integrity. They just tell lies, make up stories. Diplomatic deniability is something else," an official reportedly told Hersh, adding that there was a "total breakdown between the White House leadership and the intelligence community."* That is to be expected, the Biden family in the form of Biden's son was up to its hairline in Ukrainian corruption after the US engineered Maidan coup.

In many ways the Biden Whitehouse should be grateful that the Pentagon leaks came out when they did pushing Hersh's revelations out of the way. Having had their fingers burnt rebutting Hersh's earlier report over which country attacked Nord Stream 2, it will be interesting to see whether the attack by the media on him this time will be so robust. What seems to be in train now, given that it is becoming more and more difficult to misreport what is going on in Ukraine, is one embarrassing revelation after another destroying the narrative the Biden administration and his fellow neo-cons built so assiduously. This was always going to happen. And it will further tear down the credibility of the BBC, CNN and other media outlets.

The third world.

This was the term given to the non-aligned nations who navigated a path between the USSR and the USA during the *cold war*. As expected, some of them were forcibly realigned by US imperialism through military means and coups but the larger countries found they were able to exploit the antagonisms between the USA and the USSR to their advantage. (It should never be forgotten that until the USSR collapsed the hypocritical USA most certainly did not promote electoral democracy in the third world.) It is likely that countries will once again seek to be unaligned. Despite their best efforts the West was not able to whittle down the abstentions in the UN vote to condemn the so called Russian invasion of the Ukraine. In all three votes between 2nd March 2022 and the 23rd February 2023 over 30 countries abstained, refusing to vote in favour of the resolution.

Once again a defeat for NATO in the Ukraine will weaken the West's attempt to chorale the smaller countries into its camp. This is why the war is so important in terms of winning or losing international support. Zelensky knows this. "[If Bakhmut falls to Russian forces](#), President Vladimir Putin would "sell this victory to the West, to his society, to China, to Iran", Zelenskyy said: "If he will feel some blood – smell that we are weak – he will push, push, push," Zelenskyy told *The Associated Press* on Tuesday." In reality Putin does not depend on this win, but Zelensky's future can be decided by this loss. "He predicted the pressure from a defeat in Bakhmut would come quickly – both from the international community and within his own country. "Our society will feel tired. Our society will push me to compromise with them."

This fear was also echoed by former [Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers](#) speaking on Bloomberg this week. He warned of "troubling" signs that the US is losing global influence as other powers align together and win favor among nations not yet aligned. "There's a growing acceptance of fragmentation, and —

maybe even more troubling — I think there's a growing sense that ours may not be the best fragment to be associated with," Summers is right. Unlike Syria, Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan, the Ukrainian conflict is a watershed because it is the first clash between an emerging bloc and the dominant bloc. It marks the divide between a former US unipolar world, and the arrival bloody as it was always bound to be, of the Eurasia block to world prominence thereby ending unipolarity and ushering in multi-polarity.

This will become critical when the West tries to set up China over Taiwan with some form of provocation. A defeat for the USA hiding behind NATO in the Ukraine will make it that much more difficult to bully smaller countries in the UN to line up behind the West when attempting to legalize an assault on China.

China redirects its export effort.

I will conclude on this point. After declining for 5 straight months Chinese Exports rose 14.8% yoy in March. This stunned economists because they had predicted a 7% fall (Reuters poll). The head of China's General Administration of Customs, reported this spike was due to a number of one off factors and would not endure. The data for March can be seen below.

(1) China's Total Export & Import Values, March 2023 (in CNY)					
Item	3	1-to-3	3		1-to-3
			Month-on-Month %	Year-on-Year %	Year-on-Year %
			Total Export & Import	37,093.8	98,876.9
Total Export	21,551.9	56,483.6	48.4	23.4	8.4
Total Import	15,541.9	42,393.3	15.9	6.1	0.2
Export-Import Balance	6,010.1	14,090.2	-	-	-

Note:
Export-Import Balance "+" indicates export more than import and "-" indicates export less than import.

(Source: [General Administration of Customs, People's Republic of China](#))

But two issues stand out. Firstly, higher tech goods spurred this growth, such as EV cars, lithium batteries and solar panels. Secondly, and more importantly was where these goods were headed to. The pick up in exports came from customers in the Pacific Region which more than made up for the downturn in exports to the USA. The Chinese Communist Party had called upon exporters to diversify their exports and to cultivate new customers. If this month's exports are part of a trend, and it is far too early to say it is, then it means Beijing is making further advances in its Eurasian project.

It is also important to note that the US embargo will not affect the bulk of Chinese higher value exports. With the exception of smartphones, computers and servers, most products use chips above 14nm. China has become self-sufficient in the production of microchips down to 14nm and no longer relies on foreign know how or machinery to produce them with the exception of the DUV lithography machines, but then it has already bought enough of them from ASML.

Nor is the Chinese military or its space industry handicapped by the absence of chips. Due to extreme conditions low nm chips are far too sensitive to cope with temperature variations, high altitude radiation constant jarring and high G forces. Higher nm chips are more robust which is why they are used extensively in weaponry. The only area where low nm chips are beneficial are in ground based systems such as radars, communications, electronic warfare and battlefield management, but even here using additional higher nm chips is a viable alternative because space and power are not constraints.

Conclusion.

Empires do not go quietly into the night, they set the night ablaze. The US neocons are ruthless. The defeat in the Ukraine, unless it turns into the US's own version of 1905, will not stop their aggression against China. If they are of the opinion that they have failed to frustrate China's technical and economic progress they will go to war. This is not make believe. Understand this. US imperialism provoked a war in a world still reeling from the pandemic and facing a climate emergency. They knew the war would frustrate efforts to reverse climate change but their addiction to profits meant they cared less about the world and its people than they did about their balance sheets and bank balances. To those who praise *greed is good* let us reply with one voice, how can that be when it may cost us the earth.

Now it has come to pass. Finally, the mainstream media has woken up to the fact that the atmosphere is about to burn. Here is the link to an interesting article which spells out the danger. And mark it does not include the effect of irradiance from a ferocious *Solar 25* which just happens to peak next year when El Nino will be at its maximum. <https://www.aol.com/world-records-529th-straight-month-174903264.html>

The capitalist class have done nothing to prepare contingencies to deal with the brutal and life-threatening weather to come. What they thought they would gain from the war in the Ukraine, they will lose a hundred times over as temperatures sap productivity, factories become inhospitable, and infrastructure buckles. They have not learnt the lessons of the pandemic when tens of billions in preparation would have saved them trillions. Their pious claims that this unpreparedness would never happen again was not worth the zeros and ones which spelt it out.

On the Junior Doctors picket line in my city I asked what measures were in place to protect patients from hyperthermia as the wards are not air-conditioned. Nothing. It has not even been discussed. No air-conditioners have been ordered. We are likely to endure another *respirator moment* which occurred in the pandemic when no additional respirators could be found.

Honestly, the capitalist class are unfit to be the ruling class. They are a present and undeniable danger to humanity. Over the next two years this will be blindingly obvious. The sooner they are overthrown the less damage the planet and those who inhabit its surface and seas, will have to endure.

Brian Green, 15th March 2023.